



March 26, 2013

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Room TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

RE: In the Matter of: Nomination for the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

The National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH), the membership association of all fifty State Offices of Rural Health, hereby supports the nomination of Mr. Kipman Smith, Executive Director of the Health Information Exchange of Montana ("HIEM"), to serve on the board of directors of the Universal Service Administrative Company ("USAC") Board of Directors.

Mr. Smith is being nominated to represent rural health care providers. Mr. Smith has many years experience working in the health care industry in northwest and north central Montana, experience that includes most recently the successful deployment of a broadband network funded by federal universal service funds to serve exclusively rural health care facilities – including many tribal health facilities – across this remote region.

The HIEM is a not-for-profit collaboration of rural healthcare providers established to develop and share electronic health information and to improve patient care throughout a shared service area which spans both sides of the Continental Divide and features difficult terrain, harsh and unpredictable weather, and sparse population. NOSORH believes it is important for the perspective of the relatively small, very rural health providers such as those served by the HIEM to be represented on the USAC Board of Directors. NOSORH believes Mr. Smith is uniquely qualified and capable to fulfill this role. Mr. Smith's resume is attached.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me by email [teryle@nosorh.org](mailto:teryle@nosorh.org)

Sincerely,

Teryl E. Eisinger, MA  
Director

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**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF STATE OFFICES OF RURAL HEALTH**

• 44648 Mound Road, #114 • Sterling Heights, MI 48314-1322 •  
• Phone: 586-739-9940 • Fax: 586-739-9941 • [www.nosorh.org](http://www.nosorh.org) •